

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR TEACHER EXCHANGE (AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE)

REF: STATE 165758

1. DURING CAO'S FAREWELL CALL, MINED SAID THAT LENGTHENING OF AFS TEACHER EXCHANGE WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR 1977-78 BUT NOT 1976-77. IN PRINCIPLE THEY AGREE LONGER PERIOD IS PREFERABLE FOR SUCH EXCHANGES.

2. AT SAME TIME, MINISTRY WANTED TO BRING SOME MATTERS TO EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT ATTENTION, SINCE EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN PROGRAM PRIOR TO THIS. MIN ED HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH INCONSISTENT CONDITIONS OBTAINING ON AMERICAN SIDE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE SOME SOVIET TEACHERS HAVE BEEN HOUSED COMFORTABLY, MINED REPS SAID OTHER HAVE SLEPT IN BARNS. WHILE SOME AMERICAN TEACHERS HAD HIGH QUALIFICATIONS, OTHERS DID NOT. ALTHOUGH SOVIET TEACHERS ARE SELECTED ACCORDING TO COMMON STANDARD AT HIGH LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION, STANDARDS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AMERICAN PROGRAM HAVE BEEN LACKING. IN GENERAL AMERICAN SIDE HAS NOT FULLY UTILIZED SKILLS OF SOVIET TEACHERS. OFTEN THEY ARE USED ONLY FOR VERY SMALL GROUPS. MIN ED MISSES ON AMERICAN SIDE SOME KIND OF SUPERVISING ORGANIZATION TO OVERSEE STANDARDS. DESPITE THESE FACTORS MIN ED IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROCEED AND TO HAVE LONGER STAY IN FUTURE. SOVIETS ALSO MUST IMPROVE THEIR SIDE, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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MUST AFS.

3. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT CU'S ISSUING A SUBSIDY TO THIS PROGRAM WAS A MISTAKE. PROGRAM HAD GONE ON FOR YEARS PRIVATELY AT SAME LEVEL AND USG FUNDS BEING ADDED THIS YEAR DID NOT HAVE "STARTER" OR "MULTIPLIER" EFFECT BUT RATHER MAY TEND TO ATTRACT FURTHER DEPENDENCY.

4. IN RESPONSE QUESTION IN PARA FOUR REFTEL, EMBASSY DOES NOT AT THIS TIME RECOMMEND DISCONTINUING GRANT AS LONG AS HIGHER PRIORITY PROJECTS ALREADY SCHEDULED IN COUNTRY PLAN ARE NOT ELIMINATED OR POSTPONED BY BUDGET CUTS. IF FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALS LACK OF QUALITY IN PROGRAM, HOWEVER, THIS ALONE WOULD BE REASON ENOUGH TO DISCONTINUE.

5. EMBASSY REGRETS NEA TEACHER EXCHANGE PROJECT HAS DIED, AS DEPT REPORTS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL, NATION-WIDE EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF TEACHERS IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES. WE HOPE CU AND OFFICE OF EDUCATION CAN CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO ORGANIZE THIS ON AMERICAN SIDE. AS WE HAVE REPORTED OVER PAST TWO YEARS, SOVIETS ARE READY TO GO. AFS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE.

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